



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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State Tests in Bush Plan Hold Schools Accountable to Parents

President Bush's education plan, *No Child Left Behind*, is an innovative approach to improving the quality of our education system, and regular testing to ensure accountability is the centerpiece of that plan.

Why ask states and schools to annually test students in grades 3-8 in reading and math? States and schools using federal education dollars must be held accountable for results. Testing students annually gives schools and teachers the information they need to help struggling students get back on track. Washington has spent billions on education since 1965. We must now insist on results.

Will testing students annually cost states too much money? Most states already have assessment systems in place. In fact, many states already test students annually in grades 3-8 (including some of the most populous states like Florida, Texas, and California) and therefore are already in compliance. Many other states are also already moving in this direction. These states will have almost no additional development or administration costs as a result of H.R. 1. Moreover, the Bush plan authorizes \$400 million to help those states that need it to develop their tests.

Does H.R. 1 create a national test? No, in fact it explicitly bans national testing. States will select the test that best suits their needs. The federal government will provide funding for states that do not have annual assessments to develop such tests within three years.

Message of the Day

Americans support President Bush's innovative approach to improving the quality of our public education system.

- ❑ *States and local schools using federal education dollars must be held accountable for results.*
- ❑ *Parents should have the right to know whether their children are truly learning.*
- ❑ *The only way for parents to know for certain whether their children are learning is to measure, and measure regularly.*
- ❑ *The American people strongly support the Republican plan to test students and empower parents.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The Bush plan requires states and local schools to demonstrate results through annual reading and math assessments for students in grades 3-8. It authorizes \$400 million to help states design their own tests.
- H.R. 1 **prohibits national testing**, federally controlled curriculum, and national teacher tests.
- A new poll conducted by the Winston Group, a widely respected GOP national polling firm, shows that Americans strongly support President Bush's testing plan by a 72-23 percent margin. **Of note, conservatives supported the testing plan by a large margin of 80-16 percent.**

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The beauty of a statewide test is that you know whether Cincinnati and Columbus are both improving, and you know whether scores are improving in the third grade for Hispanics or only in the fourth grade for whites." Chester E. Finn Jr., quoted in *New Republic*, April 9, 2001